

SELECTIVE DISSEMINATION OF ELECTRONIC MAIL ATTACHMENTS

**ABSTRACT**

A method is provided for processing an electronic mail (e-mail) message having an attachment. The method includes receiving as input from the sender the e-mail message and the attachment, for transmission across a network. In addition, designations of respective first and second sets of one or more recipients are received from the sender. The e-mail message and the attachment are sent to the first set of one or more recipients, and the e-mail message without the attachment is sent to the second set of one or more recipients. Alternatively or additionally, the method includes receiving as input from a sender the e-mail message and the attachment for transmission to a recipient. Additionally, an instruction is received from the sender, indicative of whether to save the attachment. The e-mail message and the attachment are sent to the recipient, and, if the instruction indicates that the attachment is not to be saved, then the e-mail message is saved without the attachment.